In the claims:

1. A first~~An~~ information processing apparatus for communicating with an external device which displays received image data, comprising:

means for transmitting image data to the external device;

means for receiving an interrupt request from the external device ~~during~~ while the external device is displaying the received image data from the transmitting means~~information processing apparatus~~, the interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data transmission request from a second ~~another~~ information processing apparatus; and

means for instructing the external device whether or not to allow shifting a transmission source transmitting the image data to the external device from the first information processing apparatus to the second ~~other~~ information processing apparatus when the receiving means received the interrupt request.

2. The first ~~An~~ information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for inquiring of the user of the first information processing apparatus about whether or not to allow shifting of the transmission sources, when the interrupt request has been received by the receiving means and before operation of the instructing means.

3. The first ~~An~~ information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising means for setting the operation mode of the instruction means to either one of a first mode for performing an inquiry by the inquiring means and a second mode for instructing the external device to prohibit the shifting ~~shift~~ of the transmission source without performing the inquiry by the inquiring means.

4. The first ~~An~~ information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said interrupt receiving means receives a plurality of interrupt request from a plurality of second information processing apparatuses, the plurality of interrupt request indicating

that the external device received an image-data transmission request from the plurality of second information processing apparatuses, and said first information processing apparatus further comprising:

means for storing identifying information for identifying each of the second plurality of ~~other~~ information processing apparatuses ~~designated~~ indicated by the plurality of interrupt request~~s whenever the interrupt request is received by the receiving means at least during the communication with the external device~~;

means for displaying a ~~the~~ list of the stored identifying information corresponding to said second plurality of information processing apparatuses on a display of the first information processing apparatus; and

means for selecting one identifying information from the list as the next transmission source.

5. The first ~~An~~ information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the instruction means includes means for transmitting the selected one identifying information to the external device to allow shifting the transmission source to one of the second plurality of information processing apparatuses corresponding to the selected one identifying information, ~~and the selected identifying information to the external device,~~ when the one identifying information is selected by the selecting means.

6. A method for controlling the transmission of image data from a first ~~an~~ information processing apparatus to an external device which displays received image data, comprising the steps of:

transmitting image data ~~displayed by the external device~~ to the external device;

receiving an interrupt request from the external device at least while the external device is displaying the received image data from the first information processing apparatus~~during the~~

~~communication with the external device~~, the interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data transmission request from a second ~~another~~ information processing apparatus; and

in response to the interrupt request, instructing the external device whether or not to allow shifting a transmission source transmitting the image data to the external device from the first information processing apparatus to the ~~other~~ second information processing apparatus.

7. The ~~A~~ method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 6, further comprising the step of inquiring of the user of the first information processing apparatus about whether or not to allow shifting the transmission sources, when the interrupt request has been received and before the instructing step.

8. The ~~A~~ method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 7, further comprising the step of setting the operation mode of the instruction step to either one of a first mode for performing an inquiry in the inquiring step and a second mode for instructing the external device to prohibit the shift of the transmission sources without the inquiry in the inquiring step.

9. The ~~A~~ method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of interrupt request from a plurality of second information processing apparatuses, the plurality of interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data transmission request from the plurality of second information processing apparatuses,

storing identifying information for identifying each of the second plurality of ~~other~~ information processing apparatuses indicated ~~designated~~ by the plurality of interrupt requests ~~whenever the interrupt request is received in the receiving step at least during the communication with the external device~~;

displaying a ~~the~~ list of the stored identifying information corresponding to said second plurality of information processing apparatuses on the display of the first information processing apparatus; and

selecting one identifying information from the list as the next transmission source.

10. The ~~A~~ method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 9, wherein the instructing step includes the step of transmitting the selected one identifying information to the external device to allow ~~instructing~~ shifting the transmission source to one of the second plurality of information processing apparatuses corresponding to the selected one identifying information, ~~and the selected identifying information to the external device,~~ when the one identifying information is selected in the selecting step.

11. A first ~~An~~ information processing apparatus for communicating with an external device which displays received image data, comprising:

means for transmitting image data to the external device;

means for receiving an interrupt request from the external device, the interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data presentation request from a second ~~another~~ information processing apparatus; and

means, responsive to said interrupt request, for instructing the external device whether or not to allow display of image data from the second ~~other~~ information processing apparatus.

12. The first ~~An~~ information processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means, responsive to said interrupt request, for inquiring of the user of the first information processing apparatus about whether or not to allow display of image data from the second ~~other~~ information processing apparatus before instructing the external device whether or not to allow display of image data from the second ~~other~~ information processing apparatus.

13. The first ~~An~~ information processing apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising means for setting the operation mode of the instruction means to either one of a first mode for performing an inquiry by the inquiring means and a second mode for instructing the external device to automatically prohibit the display of image data from the second ~~other~~ information processing apparatus without an inquiry to said user of the first information processing apparatus.

14. The first ~~An~~ information processing apparatus according to claim 11, ~~further comprising:~~

wherein said interrupt receiving means receives a plurality of interrupt request from a plurality of second information processing apparatuses, the plurality of interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data presentation request from the plurality of second information processing apparatuses, and said first information processing apparatus further comprising:

means for storing identifying information for identifying the second plurality of ~~other~~ information processing apparatuses indicated ~~designated~~ by the plurality of interrupt requests ~~whenever the interrupt request is received by the receiving means~~;

means for displaying a ~~the~~ list of the stored identifying information corresponding to said second plurality of information processing apparatuses on a display of the first information processing apparatus; and

means for selecting one identifying information from the list as the next display source.

15. The first ~~An~~ information processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the instruction means includes means for transmitting the selected one identifying information to the external device ~~the information~~ to allow shifting the source of the image data to correspond to the selected next display source.

16. A method for controlling the display of image data transmitted from a first ~~an~~ information processing apparatus to an external device which displays received image data, comprising the steps of:

transmitting image data ~~displayed by the external device~~ to the external device;

receiving an interrupt request from the external device while ~~during~~ the external device is displaying the received image data from the first information processing apparatus, the interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data presentation request from a second ~~another~~ information processing apparatus; and

in response to the interrupt request, instructing the external device whether or not to allow display of image data from the second ~~other~~ information processing apparatus.

17. The ~~A~~ method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 16, further including, in response to the interrupt request, inquiring of the user of the first information processing apparatus about whether or not to allow display of image data from the second ~~other~~ information processing apparatus before instructing the external device whether or not to allow display of image data from the second ~~other~~ information processing apparatus.

18. The ~~A~~ method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 17, further comprising the step of setting the operation mode of the instruction step to either one of a first mode for performing an inquiry in ~~of~~ the inquiring step and a second mode for instructing the external device to automatically prohibit the display of image data from the second ~~other~~ information processing apparatus without an inquiry to said user of the first information processing apparatus.

19. The ~~A~~ method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of interrupt request from a plurality of second information processing apparatuses, the plurality of interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data transmission request from the plurality of second information processing apparatuses,

storing information for identifying the each of the second plurality of ~~other~~ information processing apparatuses indicated ~~designated~~ by the plurality of interrupt requests ~~whenever the interrupt request is received in the receiving step~~;

displaying a ~~the~~ list of the~~,~~ stored identifying information corresponding to said second plurality of information processing apparatuses on the display of the first information processing apparatus; and

selecting one identifying information from the list as the next display source.

20. The ~~A~~ method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 19, wherein the instructing step includes the step of transmitting the selected one identifying information to the external device to allow ~~information instructing the~~ shifting the display source to one of the second plurality of information processing apparatuses corresponding to the selected one identifying information, ~~and the selected identifying information to the external device, when the one identifying information is selected in the selecting step~~.